

# In Memoriam

## Dr Christine Lumsden

Christine Lumsden, who died on 23 April 2015, after a long struggle with illness, was a native of Fife, the eldest of a large family. She was educated at Kirkcaldy High School and at Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh. Following a short period of teaching, she entered the Scottish Office, where she rose to a responsible position in the Department of Education. She was a member of Bristo Baptist Church, serving for several years as its Secretary, and becoming an expert on its long history.

While employed at the Scottish Office, she earned her BA with Honours in History from the Open University in 1983. Then, following her retirement from the Civil Service, she earned her Masters degree from the Open University in 2001, and her PhD from the University of Edinburgh in 2012 for her thesis, 'Class, Gender and Christianity in Edinburgh 1850–1905: a study in denominationalism'. Her thesis was a thoroughly researched and beautifully written work, in which she brought to life, to quote her principal supervisor, Professor Stewart J. Brown, 'the human stories of neglected and marginalised people in the past, the poor inhabitants of the Cowgate ... the Jenner's shop girls living in dormitories and finding in church a sense of their human worth'. The thesis is in process of publication and will serve as a starting point for much other research.

Her passion for accurate historical writing directed her research in the story of the Baptist Churches in Scotland. She wrote in *A Rich Inheritance* (Baptist Historical Society, 2013) of the rather elusive Sir William Sinclair of Keiss and the Baptist Church he formed in 1750. Sinclair wrote hymns, and my earliest memory of Christine was her lecture at the Scottish Baptist History Project, many years ago, when she illustrated her talk by singing some of

these hymns. Christine was a music lover and very talented singer. In recent years, amongst other writings, she contributed a chapter on the place of women in Baptist life in twentieth-century Scotland for *A Distinctive People* (Paternoster, 2014), edited by Brian Talbot, in which she rescued some remarkable women from obscurity. Christine also contributed articles to the *Baptist Quarterly* on the remarkable Anderson family of Bristo Place.

Despite often-poor health and an innate shyness, Christine achieved a remarkably varied and valuable record of research and publication. She loved the music of Mozart, and was well read in literature. Despite her reticence, she once reached the semi-final of the radio quiz, Brain of Britain, and faced the public on many occasions. At the time of her death she was the Secretary of the Scottish Church History Society.

Undergirding all her work was her deep and practical Christian faith.

Derek B. Murray